Snooker ace Steve right on cue for Adam's birthday

- see page 3



The priceless reward of investing love into foster family of 40

- see page 4



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Drunken friends jailed after late-night attack on young couple

Tax freeze

but jobs go

COUNCIL tax rates will be frozen for Dudley borough residents under budget proposals to go before a meeting of the full council next week.

to aid heart fund

End of road for Judas

years ago, are describing their Epi-taph 2011 dates as their farewell tour.

TWO DUDLEY men have been jailed for a total of five years after being found guilty of robbing a couple after a night out in Stourbridge. The female victim was also sexually assaulted. Liam Morris, aged 24, from Netherton, and Dylan Cooknell, aged 23, from Brierley Hill, were found guilty following a trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court, where they appeared again for sentencing on Friday.

Both men were found guilty of robbery and causing actual bodily harm, with Morris also convicted of the additional charge of sexual

had barely come to police attention before, and Cooknell in particular was of previous good character. However, at the time of attacking this couple both were very drunk and we can only assume that their intoxication may have fuelled the crime.

"Regardless of motive, the attack left the couple with both physical injuries and emotional scars."

Kears."

He said violence would not be tolerated areas of night-time economy across the borough would be proactively police to prevent incidents.

DRUGS FAR MAN SPAR

Richard on the road to bostin' grub

A NEW restaurant will give a fresh meaning to the term fast food – it's on

budget proposals to go before a meeting of the full council next week. But they would also see a reduction in the workforce of around 400 over the next year and a total of around 800 posts over the next three years. Some job losses would be compulsory.

It will mean residents will continue paying the lowest council tax in the Black Country if Dudley Council proposals for £35 million of savings over the next three years are approved.

At Monday's meeting, members will be asked to approve £22 million savings for the next financial year and a total of £35 million through to 2014.

Savings will, as far as possible, be made through service modernisation, improved efficiency and by reducing management and administration costs, support and overheads.

Council bosses are looking to implement job cuts through redeployment, non-replacements, job sharing, retirements and voluntary redundancy, but acknowledge there will inevitably have to be compulsory redundancy, but also we have the production of erm fast food – it's on ooard a double-decker bus. board a double-decker bus.
Halesowen businessman
Richard James, founder of
the popular Black Country
Beer Tours, hopes his idea
is just the ticket to boost
tourism and trade in the **Runners in action**

tourism and trade in the region.

The roving restaurant will travel to wherever it is requested. It will come complete with an onboard kitchen and tables laid out in restaurant style.

It will serve traditional Black Country fare such as faggots and grey peas as well as more exotic dishes like lobster thermidor. to aid heart fund

HUNDREDS of runners braved cold
and heavy rain for a five-mile run in
aid of Action Heart. More than 600
started and finishing at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, after a run through
Dudley, Coopers Bank and Pensnett.
Organisers hope the event, started
by Dudley deputy mayor Councillor
Michael Evans, will raise about
£15,000 this year.
First home was 28-year-old council
worker Richard White, of Birmingham, in 27 minutes, followed by Steve
Abrahams, of Tipton Harriers.
First woman across the line, for the
third year, was Melanie James, 45, of
Northfield, Birmingham, in 31
minutes seven seconds.
Tessa Parkinson, of Wolverhampton
and Bilston AC, finished in 31 minutes
27 seconds. Other runners included
Action Heart's own running club and
Dudley Kingswinford Running Club.

Familiar

Mr James has bought the bus, the Black Country Belle, and secured sponsor-ship from breweries. He is now looking for caterers to take over the franchise for day-to-day running of the restaurant.

Once agreement has

Once agreement has been reached, the bus will be kitted out and Mr James hopes it will eventually become a familiar sight at events and shows in the region. VETERAN Black Country heavy metal band Judas Priest are going back on the road for what could be their final tour and it includes a 'home' date at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on July 21. The band, which formed 40

region.
Mr James, aged 59, of
Halesowen, said: "This is a
logical and natural progression from beer tours." Anyone interested can call him on 0121 550 8016.

Richard James and the Black Country Belle

he faced a jail term after a cannabis factory was found in a flat below his Halesowen home has been handed a community order.

Part-time cleaner James Gilson, aged 20, wept as Dudley magis-trates told him on Monday that he had narrowly avoided a custodial sentence.

He pleaded guilty to production and possession of more than £3,000 of cannabis plants following a drugs raid at his home in Long Lane in January.

Magistrate Mrs Ann Robin-son told him: "You are a very son told him: "You are a very fortunate gentleman today as you could have been going to

As part of the 12 month community order, he was ordered to complete 250 hours of unpaid work and must pay £85 court costs

College

The court previously heard that police had noticed a strong smell of cannabis as they walked past the property on January 11.
When they knocked on the door Gilson was seen throwing a bag full of the plants out of a window. They raided the house later that same day and found a factory where 31 afterory where 31 found a factory where 31 plants – around 1kg of cannabis – were discovered. Mr Brian Hamblin, defend-

dudleychrons@ expressand star.com

expressand star.com

ing, said the cannabis had
been for Gilson's personal use
as he had become addicted
and could not afford to
support his habit by buying off
the street.

"As a result of this, however,
it seems to have given him the
wake-up call he needs," said
Mr Hamblin.

"He has taken it upon
himself to get some counselling."

Mrs Robinson said magistrates were "very pleased"
with what Gilson had tried to
do for himself.

"We hope to never see you in
this courtroom again. You
have a lot going for you with
your young family," she said.

Both flats are owned by
Gilson's father, who is a businessman, but he was not
aware of the drugs being
grown, the court was told.

Mr Hamblin said Gilson
was a former student at Halesowen College, where he had
been studying A-levels including psychology, English and
business studies, but gave up
when his partner became
pregnant.

"He wanted to get a job an
support his family," he added.

"Sadly, he has been addicted
to cannabis since he was
around 13 years old."



Billingham celebrates her 100th birthday with daughters Maureer Chater, left and Betty Billingham

Constance battles on to achieve 100 not out

A 100-YEAR-OLD from Cradley Heath has attributed the secret to her long life to hard work.

Great-grandmother Constance Billingham celebrated her landmark birthday by throwing a party at her home for family and friends.

Twenty five people, including her daughter from Devon, came to take part in celebrations for the retired cleaner's milestone.

One of seven children, Constance was born in Cradley Heath, grew up in Quarry Bank and has lived in the Black Country all her life.

The divorcee has five children, two daughters and three sons, plus nine grandchildren.

Her eldest daughter, Maureen Chater, aged 68, of Blossom Grove, Cradley Heath, said: "It's been great getting a card from the Queen and celebrating the achievement."

She said her mother had been boosted by the birth of her year-old great granddaughter, who was born on Valentine's Day last year.

"Mum says the secret to long life is hard work. She divorced her husband more than 50 years ago and since then has brought up a family on her

more than 50 years ago and since then she has brought up a family on her

own.

"She has had to work hard to pay her own way. We're all very proud of her."

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Tesco delight as £50m shops centre approved

... development would bring significant investment to the heart of the town centre . . .

THE ailing Crown Centre in Stourbridge is to have a £50million facelift after plans were given the go-

were given the goahead.

Bosses said work could
start "early next year" on
the plans to create a
60,000sq ft Tesco superstore with other shops and
office space.

Crown Centre and Bell
Street multi-storey cap
rark will be demolished in
the move.

Around 400 new full and
part time jobs will be
created by the development
as the plans were unanimously approved last week.

It is estimated the development would pave the way
for traders to ring up an
estimated extra £200,000 a
week through their tills.

Councillor Les Jones,
deputy leader of Dudley
Council, estimated Tesco
could rake in £1 million a
week at the new superstore.

More than 500 parking
spaces will be created in a
two-level car park under
the new centre, the transformation of which has been
heralded as a new chapter
for the town. heralded as a new chapter for the town.

Planning committee chairman Councillor Tim Wright said it would "meet

people of today". Plans include creating a larger town square in front of the old Yorkshire Bank and eight new shops and offices. Bell Street will be two-way to traffic passing in front of the Crystal Leisure Centre as New Street dis-appears.

appears. Concerns were raised at the meeting last week about the number of parking spaces available during building work.

There were also worries about the modern style of the new centre alongside historic architecture of surrounding buildings.

Complained

In addition, some small traders also complained at the meeting about possible loss of income when the superstore is built.

superstore is built.

But the development control committee decided to follow officers' advice to approve the plans.

Tesco hopes the store and centre will be open by Christmas 2012. Corporate affairs manager Tony Fletcher, said it was runlikely work would start before the end of this year.

Tesco's Nick Baker told

Tesco's Nick Baker told the meeting the develop-ment would bring signifi-cant investment to the heart of the town centre".



Artist's impression of the new Tesco superstore from

View of the new Crown Square at the entrance to the centre

Crack on call to developer

DEVELOPERS have been urged to start work on the multi-million pound transformation of Stourbridge's Crown Centre as soon as possible after the project was approved.

The scheme was welcomed by Dudley councillors as the development control committee gave the go-ahead last week.

But a temporary com-

week.

But a temporary committee member, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said: "Tm concerned that if Bell Street car park is demolished straight away, with work not starting on Tesco for a while, there could be a shortage of

car parking spaces in the town. It would be good to obtain more assurances from Tesco on how long it will take for the development to be completed."

Cabinet member for transport, Councillor Angus Adams, said previously that motorists would be directed to other town centre car parks.

He said a count of spaces had revealed there were enough not to have to provide an alternative.

Councillor, Geoffrey

Councillor Geoffrey Southall said that the contemporary-style of the buildings would not

Searches widen for carnival princess

A LAST-DITCH hunt is on to find a carnival queen and princess after attracting only a handful of entrants

attracting only a handful of entrants. The struggle to find girls willing to lead Tipton Carni-val comes after the competi-tion was revived following pleas from residents after it was scrapped last year due to dwindling entrants. But this year just four

But this year just four people have applied to become carnival queen and not a single girl has come forward to become

not a single girl has come forward to become the princess for the day.

Selection contests were due to be held last Friday, but have now been put back by a month.

Rosebud

The competitions for car nival queen, for girls aged over 16 and princess, for girls aged between 12 and 15, ran for 47 years before being called off last year.

being called off last year.

A junior competition to find a rosebud aged between nine to 11 and a sweet pea, aged five to eight will still go ahead on March 27, and will

now include the contests for the older age groups. Tina Rigby, of Tipton Community Association, Community Association, said: "We are very disappointed at the level of interest and have postponed the final in the hope that we will get more entries."

get more entries."

To apply for any of the competitions call 07530 374438. Applicants must have a DY4 postcode and carnival queen competition applicants must be over 16.

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Council closes public toilets

MORE than a third of public toilets have been closed in Dudley borough in the last decade, figures

in the last decade, figures have revealed.

The area has suffered the biggest cuts to public conveniences in the Black Country.

Country.

Figures released show the days of the public loo appear to be numbered across the West Midlands as councils slash funding.

They show that in Dudley eight out of the 23 public conveniences that were provided for shoppers and passers-by 10 years ago have been shut.

Budget

The door has slammed shut on toilet facilities in Stafford Street, Dudley, Halesowen Bus Station, Quarry Bank High Street, Abbey Road, in Lower Gornal, Jews Lane, in Upper Gornal, Gospel End Street, in Sedgley, Bank Street, in Srierley Hill, and Chapel Street, Lye.

Vandalism at some of the

Vandalism at some of the sites has been blamed for the closures, but a council chief has warned there could be further closures as part of budget exist. budget cuts.

budget cuts.
Councillor Angus Adams
said: "Some have been
removed after repeated
problems with vandalism.
"But as part of the budget
proposals we are currently
reviewing public toilet provision in a number of our
town centres."
"Treatty in tailets in the

Twenty four toilets in the West Midlands have been closed over the past decade.

Protesters get tough over their road to hell

Dudley is being referred to a Govern-ment watchdog by campaigners who have organised a 400-signature protest petition.

Residents claim the system in

Residents claim the system in Parkway Road is causing hold-ups in the area and making their lives "hell".

A letter has been sent to the Local Government Ombudsman over the decision and an alleged lack of consultation.

Residents are now braced for a battle against Duldey Council and say that they will "refuse to give up". The road was made one-way six weeks ago after people in Parkway Road complained that drivers were using their street as a rat-run.

Bill Chambers, aged 75, who lives in nearby Fullbrook Road, said: "We had no

with fancy footwork

MALE dancers are needed for a forthcoming festival in Stourbridge. Candidates are being sought by Dudley Performing Arts to rehearse for a performance at its spring dance festival at Stourbridge Town Hall on March 7. The dancers will work along-side the regional dance artist, Gary Tomlinson, who was originally from the Black Country. Rehearsals for experienced dancers aged from nine to 20 take place on March 6 from 10am to 4pm at The Coseley School Henne Drive. Coseley

idea about these plans until the road signs went up. We are so angry. Emergency vehicles would not be able to get through as it is gridlock at peak times."

He has written to the ombudsman claiming residents' views were not taken into account before the road was made one-way. He is also complaining that the decision was not in the best community interests.

Petition

Queues are stretching along Grange Road, which joins with Parkway Road and runs from busy Salop Street. Motorists who used to cut through Parkway Road to Himley Road now have to make their way further up Grange Road.

Ward Councillor Malcolm Davies, who has been helping collect names for the petition, said: "This was an absolutely disastroin, said: "This was an absolutely disastroin said: "This was an absolutely disastroin for the said: "The was the preversed. I will do everything in my power to get it scrapped."

Cabinet member for transportation Councillor Angus Adams has insisted that residents were consulted via adverts in the media and the local area.

He said: "The system was put in as a reaction to residents' complaints but these things aren't set in concrete and if it turns out that it is making the situation worse then I will look into it."

Search on for lads

making the situation worse then I will look into it."



Adam Littlewood challenges snooker legend Steve Davis to an arm wrestle

Steve on cue for birthday treat

A SNOOKER fan's dream came true with a had only expected to be watching. But surprise belated birthday present giving instead he was one of eight players to play surprise belated birthday present giving him the chance to play a frame against his

him the chance to play a frame against his hero Steve Davis.

The legend, nicknamed The Nugget, was at Snooks Snooker Club, in Long Lane, Halesowen, on Friday night to play exhibition matches against members. And 40-year-old fan Adam Littlewood received the surprise of his life when he was told he would be playing a frame against the star. The fitness instructor from Blackheath

a frame.

Although he lost at snooker he later challenged Steve to an arm wrestling match—which he won. Mr Littlewood said: "To say it was a surprise would be an understatement. It was unbelievable."

ment. It was unnenevane."

More than 100 people turned out to see the six-time former World Champion for his second visit to the club. Steve said: "The last time I was here it was great."

igns short-term."

Wedding venue in peril from shop plan

STOURBRIDGE register office could close following the approval of £50 million plans to rede-

£50 million plans to redevelop the Crown Centre.
The office may be forced to close when the project, creating new shops and a Tesco supermarket, begins next year. Dudley Council said no decision had been taken on whether a register office would be offered in Stourbridge in future, and it was still considering options.

ing options. There has been a drop in the number of cere in the number of cere-monies held at the regis-ter office at the Crown Centre, with 56 wed-dings taking place in 2010 compared with 83 the previous year.

Variety

Variety

Cabinet member for legal and property, Councillor Adrian Turner, said: "Following the approval of the planning application for the planning application for the planning application for the regeneration of Stourbridge town centre we will now be exploring our options in relation to how registration services are provided in Dudley borough. "No decisions have been made but we will be looking at a variety of ways to continue offering registration services in Stourbridge in addition to the service already provided at Priory Hall, Dudley.

"There is no firm date yet for when the centre will close until Tesco inform us of their decision.

"We will then take it from there. One option is looking at the availability of other council build-

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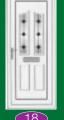
















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thechronicle

Children keep you young and vou learn to see the child and their behaviour separately



The priceless reward of investing love into a foster family of 40

hen a Dudley couple wished for a bigger family they never thought that becoming foster beautiful they never thought that becoming foster their home in just 11 years.

Jennifer and Simeon Lowe currently foster three children at their five-bedroom detached home in Kingswinford. The couple, who devote all their time to caring for the children, have one biological daughter, 19-year-old, Sam, who now plays a major part in the youngsters' upbringing.

plays a major part in the youngsters' upbringing.
Jennifer, who had a tough birth with Sam, says that she and her husband considered fostering for many years. While the choice of adoption was there, fostering meant that they could fulfil their dream of being able to help more than one child. "The children help keep you young and you learn to see the child and their behaviour as two separate things, says former beautician Jennifer. "You can never prepare yourself for the

DEAULGEAN JERNITIET.

"You can never prepare yourself for the challenges that lie in store, but the feeling that you get at the end of every day, knowing that you are giving all you possibly can to help a child, is just indescribable.

bly can to help a child, is just indescribable.

"We are a very hands-on, active family which we believe creates an energetic and positive atmosphere within the house. It also helps enable the children to express themselves in different ways, something which proves to be beneficial at home and school."

Having formed positive relationships with all their foster children and birth parents, the couple admit that some of the children do lose touch. But they have enriched the lives of many, and photographs of their foster children's children adorn their home.

Simeon received a pile of 'Dad' cards on his 46th birthday and they stand proudly on the window sill.

Patience

Having cared for children with a host of emotional problems, Jennifer says it is a continuous learning curve for the family. "We have always had the most beautiful children, and while sometimes their behaviour can be quite disruptive, as foster parents we are there to help re-programme them and make them social again," Jennifer adds. "It is a huge deal for these children. It's important to keep them interested and show them that anything is possible." It hasn't always been easy for the inspirational duo, and one placement saw them care for a feral child. It took the boy two whole years to settle into the Lowes' home, but after continuous nurturing he

WITH a desperate shortage of foster parents across the Black Country, Chronicle reporter **Sarah Hazelwood** meets the Lowe family who have been fostering young people for more than a decade.



Yusuf Khan, recruitment manager for Foster Care Associates – fostering wor

Foster Care Associates – fostering work is an every-day privilege grew to learn what was socially acceptable. The couple's patience, letting the children develop at their own pace, has earned them their respect.

Jennifer said: "Each child is different with different needs that we need to address, but we wish all of them could stay longer. It is natural for us to love the children that come into our home and although it is sad saying goodbye, I always encourage them to stay in touch after they leave. "At Christmas we put on a buffet on and see who turns up. It's always a lovely time of year for us."

of year for us."
Daughter Sam, having lived with foster-

Daughter Sam, having lived with foster-brothers and sisters since she was nine, is keen to follow in her parents' footsteps.

She is close to her 'sister' Charlotte, who was one of the couple's first foster children when she was nine. Now 19, Charlotte has given birth to a son, James, whom she fre-quently takes round to the Lowe home. Sam says: 'I never felt put out because there weren't many children around where we lived and it allowed me to socialise with different types of people. I am quite protec-tive of those that come here. It is the only thing I have really known.'

Jennifer and Simeon are approved to

care for males or females up to the age of 18. The youngest placement they had was a five-week-old baby.

FCA provides 24-hour support and ongoing training from first aid to skills to foster sessions, teaching new parents how to deal with children who have experienced a range of abuse or neglect.

Foster Care Associates (FCA), based in Dudley, is hoping to help recruit new foster carers and believes that anyone with the desire to make a lasting difference could be the perfect candidate.

Jennifer praised the work of the FCA and encourages other people to find out more about fostering.

"We couldn't imagine our lives without the foster children, we just feel so privileged to have cared for and seen so many develop.

"I hope we are proof that anyone can do anything, but how the children ture at its

develop.

"I hope we are proof that anyone can do anything, but how the children turn out is the real proof – they are the product of our work and go on to have a wonderful life."

Rewarding

With a 10,000 shortfall of foster parents across the UK, single people, same sex couples, cohabiting and married couples, from all ethnic groups, over the age of 21, with at least one spare bedroom, are all urged to get in touch with the FCA.

The application process, which takes four to six months, includes a Criminal Records Bureau check.

Records Bureau check.
The FCA team stresses that you are never pressured into anything. All avenues, from home checks to financial support, are explored.
Each stage is assessed, and fees and support are tailored to meet each individ-

support are tailored to meet each individual placement.
Yusuf Khan, recruitment manager for Foster Care Associates, said: "This is the most rewarding job and it is great to see a family like this take the foster children under their wing and treat them as if they were one of their own.
"We work closely with the families and the children to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all parties. It is vital that the children are well-matched to their new homes and we monitor them closely to see that all parties are happy.

and we monitor them closely to see that all parties are happy.

FCA provides 24-hour support and ongoing training from first aid to skills to foster sessions, teaching new parents how to deal with children who have experienced a range of abuse or neglect.

"Foster parents prove that they are the ones responsible for offering young people a second chance in life. It is a privilege to be able to be a part of this every day."

To find out more visit, www.iwantto foster.com or free-phone 0800 023 4561.

£800,000 civic centre 'is waste of space'

DUDLEYS £800,000 civic affect the flow of shoppers square has been branded a waste of money – after being used on only 33 days in the past seven years.

Stone Street Square was created in 2004 on the site of a former council-run car park in the town centre. Shop owners at the time blasted the decision saying it would harm trade and

events ran for more than one day. So far this year it has been booked for just four days.

Alan Caswell, who owns the Arcade Toy shop, in the nearby Fountain Arcade, said: "It has been a total waste of space considering the money that was spent on it. It is pathetic that the council won't admit that the money could have been spent

on a much better use." Menswear shop owner Roger Scott said it had created a "dead corner" in the town.

Deputy council leader Councillor Les Jones claimed the square was still central to the town's future. It isn't going to be turned back into a car park. It is part of the regeneration of the town," he said.

Crime clues all adding

YOUNG sleuths were putting their teachers under the microscope this week in a bid to solve a whodunnit with maths puzzles.

Twenty staff at Halesowen Church of England Primary, including head Angela Hannaway and maths co-ordinator Tom Garner, were being treated as suspects ina safe robbery.

March 2 by working through a series of logic problems, using maths, to deduce who was responsi-ble for the fictitious crime.

ble for the fictitious crime.
Mr Garner said beforehand: "The mystery will
see a pretend crime scene
set up, centring on the
school safe, which the children will be told has been
robbed.

maths co-ordinator Tomber.

Brifferent

Different

Police community support workers were also being roped in to help the an investigation, involving sealing off part of the playground.

Pupils from nursery to 11-year-olds at the school in High Street were taking part in the detective challenge to mark World Maths Day on whe field of suspects down to find the offender among the teach-offender a



Maths co-ordinator Tom Garner, and pupils Alex Cooke, aged nine, Karen Morgen, 11, and Ommar Bamarhool, eight, on the trail of clues to solve a crime through maths puzzles at Halesowen C of E Primary

CCTV spy eyes for cab drivers' safety

TAXI passengers in Sandwell are set to be filmed in an attempt to improve safety for the drivers.

Drivers have asked for licensing guidelines in the borough to be amended to allow them to install CCTV cameras following a rise in assaults on them.

Sandwell's safer neighbour-hoods boss will be asked to approve plans on March 11, paving the way for all private hire

and nackney carriage drivers to use the equipment. Councillor Derek Rowley is also being recommended to approve proposals for drivers to be able to instal screens in all private hire

cars.

Vehicle licence holders will have the option of installing the security measures, they will not be mandatory.

Onlyn Pereys of the Sondwell

be mandatory.

Onkar Basra, of the Sandwell
Taxi Association, said he supported allowing drivers the choice

to give themselves extra protection.

"We get reports about attacks on drivers day by day, and it is getting worse. If we have safety cameras it means anyone who is attacked will have the evidence for the police, and we hope it will stop people committing crimes against drivers."

A report to Councillor Rowley says driver safety was first raised by council licensing staff in June 2008.

HQ switch for archive

FLANS to house Dudley and Sandwell's archive at the Black Country Living Museum have been axed in favour of an alternative site.

Dudley Council has now earmarked the former Royal Brierley Crystal site in Tipton Road for the development after museum land was deemed unsuitable.

The £6 million building work will get under way in the autumn, if approved. The factory will be demolished to make way for a local history library, lecture theatre and archives.



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Halesowen 0121 550 9909

23 Stourbridge Road B63 3UA pen 8.30am-7.00pm Mon-Fri, 9.00am-12pm Sat

Netherton have launched a mission to record older Netherton have launched a mission to record older people's memories of the area where they live – and their first story is about 81-year-old "Santa Claus" Ivor Lucas.

Santa Claus Ivor Lucas.
Ivor, of Recreation Street,
Netherton, told them how he had
played the role of voluntary
Father Christmas for the past 51
years at schools, for scout and
guide groups and other local
organisations.

thechronicle

organisations.

He was the first person to be interviewed by members of the Star Youth group.

It is run by volunteers Trevor and Pat Randle, who formed the St Andrew's Residents Trust (StART) in Bush Road in 2007.

Spaceships

The 14-strong group, mainly teenagers, will, over the next two years, interview as many older people as they can to produce a series of videos about Netherton's history, which will then be made available to local schools and other organisations or members of the public.

"We want to record people's

of the public.

"We want to record people's memories before they are lost," said Trevor, aged 54, of Bowling Green Road, Netherton, who is currently applying for a £10,000 National Heritage grant to fund the project.

Ivor, a retired heating engineer, told the youngsters he was born in Northcote Road – then called North Street – the youngest of three brothers, to his mother, Caroline, who had been a tailoress,



lvor Lucas with reporters front, Katie Robinson, 12, back, Mark Whitehouse, 10, Teresa Heathcote, 13, Dionne Browne, 15, Emma Whitehouse, 12, and Leigh-Anna Morris, 13

wnitehouse, 12, and Leign-Anna Morris, 13
and his father, William, a heating heating, first asked him to be a engineer. Ivor went to Northfield Road Infants School and then the mearby Church School, leaving at 16. "I had passed to go to Dudge Grammar School – but wouldn't go because I didn't want to wear a daft hat," he said.

The lifelong teetotaller told the group that a sister at Yardlev think that's why vou all talk so

Read all about it,

Ivor is unmasked

group that a sister at Yardley Green Sanitorium, in Birming-ham, where he was fitting the

already have the bins after a trial of the scheme. It started in August 2008 in Great Barr and was later rolled out to homes in Bearwood, Smethwick, Old Warley, Tividale and Oldbury.

He said: "I'he lastest thing we used to see when I was growing up was a horse. Today you've got aeroplanes and spaceships – and I think that's why you all talk so fast because that's the way you live."

Tividale and Oldbury.
Serco spokesman
Adam Fergie said: "The
blue lid recycling collection service has been
rolled out in phases
across Sandwell.

"We are in the process
of delivering to the other
40,000 households.

"All Sandwell residents with kerbsides will
have the blue lid recycling service."

Wheelie

bins on

way for recycling

WHEELIE bins will be rolled out to 40,000 homes in Sandwell by the end of next month in a bid to encourage

recycling.
All residents with kerbside access will have the blue lid bins.

the blue hd bins.

They are being sent out by Serco, which is the private company that manages the council's £650 million waste contract

tract.

Residents can use their blue lid bins to recycle materials including paper, glass, plastics, cans, cartons, card and cardboard.

Trial

When the bin is delivered a collection calendar will be stuck on the lid.

It will remind residents of their fortnightly collection dates.

Thousands of homes

Cabbie boss fined £600 | Show go-ahead delight

A CRADLEY Heath taxi boss has been fined £600.

Asif Johanghir, of Royal & Black Country Kings, Council that Sandwell Horticultural Show will gother High Street, admitted failing to keep proper ahead this year despite similar shows being canrecords and give a licensing officer information after a driver was caught speeding. Warley magistrates as a premier one in the region. Master gardener Denalso ordered £683 in costs and surcharge last week.

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Pupils join in tree planting at park

Top tips for swimmers



Bill Furniss, right, with Halesowen Swimming Club members and head coach Pete Carey

A TOP British swimming coach butterfly techniques. He talked

A TOP British swimming coach took time out of preparations for next year's Olympics to help 60 youngsters from a Black Country club to improve their skills.

Bill Furniss, who coaches Olympic gold medallist Rebecca Adlington, visited Halesowen Leisure Centre to share his training methods and techniques.

He was invited by Halesowen Swimming Club and led youngsters in two separate sessions focusing on starting and turning in the water.

Mr Furniss also shared tips on

Mr Furniss also shared tips on how the youngsters could improve their breast stroke and

A PARK in Halesowen was due to be spruced up by a tree-

A PARK in Halesowen was due to be spruced up by a treeplanting ceremony.
Children from Colley Lane and
Cradley Church of England
Primary School were joining the
Friends of Homer Hill Park group
to organise the planting of six
trees yesterday (March 2).
They were designed to add
year-round colour and interest to
Homer Hill Park, which is based
on Homer Hill Road in Cradley.
The Friends of Homer Hill Park
also hoped that the trees would
encourage pupils to follow their
growth and become more involved
in the park.
Dudley Council's cabinet
member for environment and
culture, Councillor David Stanley,
said he was delighted to see local
children would be taking part in
the ceremony.
"It is very important that young
people learn about the world
around them and how to take care
of it." he added.
Anyone interested in joining

Anyone interested in joining the friends or attending a meeting should email friendsofhomerhillpark@hotmail.co.uk or phone Val Bloomer on 01384 635969.

Store prepares for spring start

ASTORE in Halesowen is closing for one day next week to install a gardening stand in preparation for spring. Wilkinson, Hagley Street, will close on Wednesday and reopen at 9am the next day. Volunteers from The Leasowes park are due to set up the stand. Spring posters, designed by Halesowen Church of England Primary School pupils, will be put up. On Saturday (12) the store will host Halesowen's champion Scout Band and Halesowen College's beauty academy will offer free manicures and make-up advice.

Optician spotlight focuses on stage

AN OPTICIAN in Halesowen is provid-ing a visionary new tool next week to help local groups prosper in times of financial difficulty. Snex Maniacs Opti-

Spex Maniacs Optiis inviting theatre groups from across the area to use the shop in Hagley Road to advertise their

Road to advertise their stage productions. Shop manager Mark Moran, who has been involved with Hale-sowen's Mayhem Theatre Group for 20 years, said: "I already help out Dudley Little Theatre Group by selling tickets for them.

Important

"If I can assist others then I am more than happy to help.
"This will be beneficial to both the groups and the local community and it is very important to be able to offer my support during offer my support during times of financial hard-

times of financial hardship."

Dudley Little
Theatre is performing
Pride and Prejudice at
Netherton Arts Centre,
from Wednesday to
Saturday, March 9-12,
at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £6 or £5
for concessions and are
available from Spex
Maniacs.
Groups interested in

Groups interested in advertising through the opticians are invited to call Mr Moran on 0121 550 7977, or on 0121 550 07973 779496.







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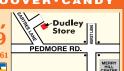


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Free wedding on offer during hall's open day

A FALE Wedding is up to grans for couples who go along to an open day at Priory Hall this weekend. Dudley Council is offering a lucky couple the chance to win a wedding at the Grade I listed building through a free prize draw being held

through a free prize draw being held at the event. Couples will be able to put their names into a hat to win a wedding, valued at £290.

The draw will be made at the end of the event, which will run from 10am to 4pm on Saturday (March 5). If the winning couple have already booked their day, the fee will be waived.

.... ree draw will also include other prizes including a studio portrait session for four people including a free photograph, a tiara and an hour's free magic show for a wedding reception.

Information on ceremony, cars, wedding cakes, balloons, photographers, bridal wear, flowers and much more will be on offer from the various exhibitors.

oked their day, the fee will be raived.

The winners will be required to The winners will recreate marriage ceremonies and fashion shows will be held throughout the day.

Ban cash for scrap deals put forward

His intervention follows a long campaign by West Bromwich East Labour MP Tom Watson who has been calling for

who has been calling for cash payments for metal to be outlawed.

Mr Kelly was joined by Maurice Hudson, of scrap metal dealers Hudsons of Dudley Ltd, and Karl Weston, of Blackburns Metals Ltd in Kingswinford, who discussed how the thefts were affecting businesses and communities in the area.

messes and communities in the area.

Mr Kelly said the minister revealed the Home Office was looking at bringing in a cashless system which would help insure all transactions are registered and can be traced.

traced.
It would force metal
dealers to pay either by
electronic transfer or

Tackling

He also said the Gov-ernment was working with the Environment

with the Environment Agency to shut down unlicensed, illegal sites which melt metal down. "This region could help lead the way in tackling this issue." he said. "The legitimate traders in the Black Country are fed up with the illegal sites blackening their name and stripping our church roofs and community centres. The lawabiding trade is very keen to clamp down on this."



Dave Hutchins, who plays Mr Darcy, and Emma Dyke as Elizabeth Bennet

Classic performance is put on with pride

DUDLEY Little Theatre will be performing Pride and Prejudice, based on the classic novel by Jane Austen, at Netherton Arts Centre between March 9 and 12. Its two central characters, Elizabeth Bennet and Mr Darcy, are played by teacher Emma Dyke and Express & Star Wolverhampton advertising department worker Dave Hutchins, of Brierley Hill. Emma, of Dudley Port, is a teacher at Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall.

Tickets are £6 or £5 for concessions including those unemployed, students and senior citizens. Call 07790 568367 for further details.

New play area up for award

DUDLEY'S innovative new adventure play-ground has been chosen as a finalist in the national Civic Trust

Awards. Sycamore Adventure Sycamore Adventure has been picked from more than 330 national and international entries in this year's awards, which recognise the best in architecture, design, planning, land scape and public art. As a finalist the adven-ture playground, based at Sycamore Green, Old

Store's plea on deliveries

RESTRICTIONS on delivery times at a Dudley supermarket could be lifted despite complaints Park Farm estate, is guaranteed to receive an award, commendation or community recognition during the ceremony to be held on Thursday. Sycamore Adventure was developed in partnership with local children and young people, including those with disabilities.

It offers a desert island complete with boat, hammocks, a palm trea and a carved wooden dragon where children can enjoy storytelling.









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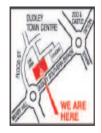
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Cornfield Road, Rowley Regis



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Narrow Lane, Halesowen



A three bedroom property comprising, lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, garage, driveway and rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Fairmile Road, Halesowen



Semi detatched property, dining room, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, utility/storeroom, 1st floor bathroom, double glazing and central heating, front driveway and rear garden.

Brickhouse Road, Rowley Regis



A four bedroom mid terrace property downstairs bedroom, lounge, kitchen/diner, first floor bathroom, central heating and double glazing driveway, rear garden.

Talbot Street, Halesowen



A terraced property breifly comprising of two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, rear garden and double glazed.

Greenwood Avenue, Rowley Regis



Notice Of Offer

NOUSE OF OTHER ASSESSED OF THE ABOVE OF THE

Lansbury Road, Cradley Heath



A Three bedroom semi detatched property briefly comprising, entrance porch, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Woodbury Road, Halesowen



Offered vacant possession four bedroom mid terrace property, kitchen, lounge, bathroom, double glazing and central heating also offering front and rear gardens

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Three bedroom three storey mid terrace property which comprises wc, kitchen, lounge and bathroom. front garden and carport to rear. double glazing

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A three bedroom semi detatched with en-suite to main, lounge,kitchen, bathroom, double glazing and central heating (where specified)

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Three bedroom terraced property breifly comprising of a lounge, kitchen, conservatory, bathroom, double glazing and central heating, rear garden.

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Three bedroom terraced property. kitchen, lounge, downstairs wc, en suite, three bedrooms, bathroom, double glazing and central heating rear garden and parking.

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Dark Lane, Romsley



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A one bedroom first floor leasehold flat briefly comprising of communall entrance, garage and driveway, bedroom, bathroom, lounge, kitchen, central heating and double glazing

Penncricket Lane, Rowley Regis



A three bedroom semi detached property comprising entrance hall, reception room, kitchen, utility, bathroom, front and rear gardens.

Harrold Road, Rowley Regis



A three bedroom semi detached property, lounge, kitchen/diner, utility, downstairs shower room and wc, bathroom, driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Park Avenue, Rowley Regis



Three Bedroom semi detatched property, lounge, dining room, kitchen, first floor bathroom, driveway and rear garden, central heating and double glazing (both where specified)

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Three bedroom semi detached house, lounge, breakfast kitchen,first floor showeroom, garage and driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating



Two Bedroom semi detatched property, lounge, kitchen, wc, first floor bathroom, driveway, front and rear gardens and garage, double glazing and central heating.

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thechronicle



A GIANT wind turbine could be constructed in the middle of a Black Country beauty spot

Significant

The possibility of erecting a turbine to reduce carbon emis-sions and cut energy costs was first mooted in 2007. Members of

the council's cabinet revealed at a meeting last week they were keen

on the scheme when the economic

be a cost to put it up, but it would produce a very significant level of

Another site which was consid-

Another site which was considered for a potential turbine was Rowley Hills, but the area was not deemed suitable. The scheme is one of a number of "spend to save" initiatives put on hold by the council as it battles to save £75m

BLACK Country-born actress Julie Walters compared picking up an honorary doctorate to being the

saving for us.

in the next four years Just 'fabulous' for Dr Walters

ROWLEY REGIS, DOVEY GR

£725 PCM



HALESOWEN, HARTSIDE CL

unfurnished semi detached fam

£650 PCM



An unfurnished end terraced house c



A fully refurbished semi detache briefly comprising of: Two Reception Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, with Shower, Gas Central Heating Glazing, Front and Rear Gardens

£550 PCM



An unfurnished semi detached hou:



distinctive unfurnished detached co ouse, briefly comprising of: Two ooms, Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, I WC, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Centro Double Glazing, Garage and Driveway, £475 PCM

TWENTY official warnings have been issued to building contractors and workers in Dudley after trading standards officers found they were breaking consumer laws. **DUDLEY, JUNCTION STRE**

In a joint operation between Dudley Council's trading standards and police officers last week, workers were stopped and checked for illegal working practices in a bid to crack down on traders.

Trading standards officer Chris King said a "shocking" number of traders, even legitimate ones, were failing to give customers their statutory rights. This In a joint operation etween Dudley

obligations were issued. "Although the traders we spoke to during the

Stopped

Chloe's tip-top tap triumph A DUDLEY shopkeeper who made and sold more than 40,000 counterfeit DVDs and CDs has been ordered to pay back just of the control of the contro

trail will stretch from

Wind turbine may



Warnings go

watters, who has just turned 61, as was presented with the award from Birmingham City University during a ceremony at Symphony Hall and admitted it was "fabulous" to receive the honour.

The actress, who is from Smethwick, attended Holly Lodge Grammar School for Girls. On receiving her doctorate, the Harry Potter actress, who received a Golden Globe and an Oscar nomination for her part in Educating Rita, said: "It's fabulous. It compares hugely well to getting an OBE because this is my home."

Tip-TOP tap dancer Chloe Choe, of Fairmile Road, Halesowen, who has been a pupil at Sheryl's Dance-Academy since the lage ofnine.

The actress, who is from Smethwick, attended Holly Lodge Grammar School for Girls. On receiving her doctorate, the Harry Potter actress, who received a Golden Globe and an Oscar nomination for her part in Educating Rita, said: "It's fabulous. It compares hugely well to getting an OBE because this is my home."

Tip ust love the atmosphere of Closure

Closure

tional Black Country materials and techniques

and techniques.
"It is important to me that the artwork reflects the area and each of the sculptures will indicate something on the site, reflecting with what happened on the canal or what it is used for now."
"I work to recommend."

in Old Hill.

Luke set up his firm Industrial
Heritage Stronghold three years
ago and creates artwork to champion the Black Country. He has
already created a sculpture trail
in Walsall Wood and helped build
a 20-ton replica of the liner
Titanic's Netherton-made anchor. "I want as many people as pos sible to be involved in the design

The 6ft sculptures will be flat, so as not to obstruct the towpath. There will also be over 50 life-He said that the sculptures would be created using tradisized steel moorhens.

£39,000 debt man must pay be at beauty spot

Sameer Husseiny cost the film and music indus-try an estimated £310,000 because of his

£310,000 because of his High Street shop scam. A court has ruled that he owed £39,000 – but since he has no recover-able assets, he should pay back just £1. The 52-year-old is serving a three-and-a-half year jail term after computer equipment and dunlicators were found

duplicators were found at his Ace Disks store. He admitted six offences. The father-of-three, o Woodland Street, Smeth wick, admitted selling fake DVDs and CDs for as little as £1 each from his shop, the flats above, and on ebay. It cost the entertain-ment industry an aver-

ment industry an average of £7.35 per disk in lost income, trading standards officers claim.

Argued

Argueu
Sandwell trading standards officers uncovered the operation when they raided the shop in 2007 following information gathered at Great Bridge Market.
They found more than 30,000 fake discs, along with computer equip.

with computer equip-ment and four disc dupli-

while on bail, officers again raided the store in December 2009, when they found an additional 10,000 dises and two new

disc duplicators. The hearing at Wolver hampton Crown Court on Friday was held to decide

Fall in babies for teenagers

number

Dudley had the lowest level of teenage pregnancies in the Black Country with 784. However, almost half of the girls -49 per cent - opted for an abortion.

Between 2007 and 2009, 14,356 under-18s in the region conceived down from 14,659 between 2004 and 2006, according to the Office for Nationally, teenage pregancies are down six per cent, with the

number conceiving during 2009 at its lowest level since the 1980s.
For decades, the teenage pregnancy rate in the UK has been the highest in western Europe.

Programme

The fall was hailed as proof that Labour's £280 million strategy to tackle the problem was finally paying off. But that 10-

paying off. But that 10-year programme ended last year.

Between 2007 and 2009, a total of 977 under-18s in Sandwell fell pregnant, with 44 per cent of cases leading to a termination.







included the seven-day cancellation period. "Advisory letters" warning traders of their

we spoke to during the operation appeared to be legitimate, it seems that very few are issuing customers with their rights of cancellation notice," he said.

He said while no formal action was taken, if the traders were stopped in future and found to be not informing their customers of these rights it would be a criminal offence.

CHURCHES in Dudley

crisis for

CHURCHES in Dudley could face closure as they struggle with £1.12 million of urgent repairs and shrinking congregations. Four in the town centre are on red alert. The man behind a financial review into seven churches warned that people will have to give more cash if they do not want to lose them. Andrew Mottram, the Diocese of Worcester's heritage buildings and community development officer, has recommended St Thomas & St Luke (Top Church) and St Edmund's should close only as a last resort due to their prominence. to their prominence.

out to traders churches teenagers falling preg-nant in the Midlands has fallen by two per cent in three years, new figures reveal. Dudley had the lowest

A window on family values

Factfile

Company Merryhill Windows

Type of Business Manufacturer, supplier and installer of uPVC windows, doors. conservatories and

Established 1988

porches

Who's in Charge John Brown and John Hodgkiss

Location

Unit 1a, Delph industrial Estate, Delph Road, Brierley Hill, DY5 2UA call: 01384 261900 fax: 01384 484886 merryhillwindows@btconnect.com

Ample free parking is available

Website

www.merryhillwindows.com





John Brown managing director, centre, pictured with the Merry Hill Windows Team, based in Delph Road, Brierley Hill windows Team, based to the Brierley Hil inistration matters at Merry Hill Windows

ERRY Hill Windows is a leading manufacturer, supplier and installer of double glazed uPVC windows, doors, porches and conservato-

The company was established back in 1988 by John Brown &

John Hodgkiss.

Now, 23 years later they remain owners and directors and the company continues to go from strength-tostrenath.

The company has evolved in to a family focused business, with John Brown's two sons on the manufacturing and installation side and Bill and Carl Hayward, father and son who make up

Merry Hill Windows prides itself on a reputation for excellence which is second to none and is reinforced by the amount of work done on personal recommendation.

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a weath of experience in all aspects installation; from the smallest pantry window to the largest conservatory. All manufacturing and installation staff are fully qualified and hold NVQ GQA Level 2 in the relevant Fenestra tion Installation or Production of Glass Supporting Fabrications; helping to provide excellent quality and customer

Products

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products available and you can also see our manufacturing lads Darren and

Jonathan at work Friendly and expert staff are always pleased to offer any advice that you may require whether it relates to choices or administration where Lynn and Jane are always on hand to

nelp.
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and Carl can point you in the right di-rection as to the designs available an advice on all aspects of your installa-

advice on an aspects of years.

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Quality control – Darren Brown and Jonathan Taylor check products before they leave Merry Hill Windows



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COMPETITION

* Mattresses * Bunk Beds

thechronicle

Show helps

to build for the future

BRITAIN'S love affair with home-building continues with the Home-building & Renovating Show returning to the NEC, Birmingham this month.

The show from March 24-27 aims to educate and inspire visitors wanting to build their future. And 80 Chronicle readers have a chance to bag a pair of free tickets (worth £28 each).

This year's show is even bigger and more interactive with a whole host of new and innovative design ideas, practical workshops and hands-on demonstrations. With more than 100 new exhibitors, the show brings all the latest in homebuilding and renovating products and services. BRITAIN'S love affair with home-tillding continues with the Home-uilding & Renovating Show regulations, budgeting and energy

exhibitions, tire and string products and services.
It is also a chance for visitors to meet more than 500 of the UK's leading self-build and renovation companies, see 1000s of new products and services and attend one of the 64 free seminars or 48 specialist master-classes, offering a fantastic opportunity to enjoy advice from the country's leading experts.

The experts from Homebuilding & Renovating magazine will help guide your project from start to finish. Share their real-life experience and hear how to avoid the common pitfalls of self-build and renovation projects. Take

HOMEBUILDING

RENOVATING

24-27 MARCH 2011

Britain's Best Home), Charlie Luxton (green home expert and presenter of Build a New Life in the Country and Best House on the Street), David Snell (consultant at the BBC and the Daily Telegraph's bricks and mortar expert), Mark Brinkley (author of the House Builder's Bible), Tim Pullen (eco expert at Homebuilding & Renovating Magazine) and Sally Tagg (planning expert at Homebuilding & Renovating Magazine).

For visitors wanting expert

zine).
For visitors wanting more specialist advice, there are 48 free masterclass programmes to address specific problems and issues. Presented by leading exhibitors, these classes offer a great opportunity to talk one-on-one with

the leading companies in the industry. To stand a chance of winning a pair of tickets simply answer the following

How many free seminars are there?

Send your answer on a postcard to: Homebuild Competition, Chronicle series (Editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES, Closing date: Thursday, March 10. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final

For more information and tickets, visit

tickets, visit www.homebuildingshow.co.uk or call the ticket hotline on 0844 581 1377. Tickets are £10 in advance or £14 on the door (children under 16 go free).



TOP TIPS TO MAKE YOUR HOME GREENER

NATIONAL Homebuilding & Renovating Show spokesperson, Jason Orme believes that with higher willity bills and the recent increase in VAT, installing energy efficient systems to your new build or renovation can make an immediate and significant difference to your energy bills to your energy bills.

Jason explains 10 ways to make your home greener

and make both short and long term savings:

Insulation: Almost half of heat loss in a home is

Insulation: Almost half of heat loss in a nome is through the walls. Good and effective insulation keeps heat from escaping.

Solar heating: 30 per cent of the average household heating bill is spent on heating water. Installing solar energy can make you a saving of around £65 per year.

Water recycling: Water recycling enthods can save between 30-50 per cent of a home's water requirements.

between 30-30 per cent of a nome's water requirements.

Heat pumps: Though actual savings figures will depend on your exact fuel prices, self builders can expect to save an average of £250 a year on their energy bill by using heat pumps.

Biomass: Five years ago fuel oil was less than 20p per litre. It is now more than 63p — a rise of 175 per cent. Using biomass fuel can be cheaper.

Eco lighting: Energy saving light bulbs can last up to 10 times longer than ordinary bulbs. They cost as little as £3 and can save you up to £40 per year.

Boilers: Installing the right boiler will also make significant savings; The Energy Savings Trust estimates this to be up to £200 per year for the equivalent of 1.7 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Secondary glazing: Installing a secondary glazing system which can be fitted easily to the window frame is a great way to keep energy from escaping your home.

is a great way to keep energy,
home.

Underfloor heating: Running costs for underfloor
heating tend to be between 10-30 per cent cheaper
than a radiator based system.

Green finishes: Natural or organic paints are nontoxic and are made from natural ingredients such as
water, vegetable oils, plant dyes and natural minerals.



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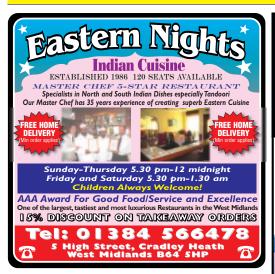
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humour with Strauss' Maus

Another rural idyll features in Birmingham Royal Ballet's charming version of La Fille mal gardee, cho-reographed by Frederick Ashton, at the Hippodrome to Saturday.

Waltz king Johann Strauss II's comic operetta Die Fledermaus is staged at the Hippodrome in Welsh National Opera's new production directed by John Copley on Wednesday (March 9) and again on Friday (March 11). In between, and on March 12, WNO stage Verdi's full-blooded tragedy Il Trovatore.



ss' Die Fledermaus with Alan Opie as Frank and Jo Boag as Adele. Picture, Clive Barda

Find highbrow Revival of traditional country drama to wit

A revival of the witty 19th Century English country drama Cranford, based on the classic book by Elizabeth Gaskell, is at Wolverhampton Grand from Monday for one week, starring Ben Roberts, best known as Chief Inspector Derek Conway in TV cop drama The Bill.

He will be alongside film, stage and television actress Hildegard Neil (who is married to Brian Blessed), former Grange Hill actress Karen Ford, and familiar TV faces Jake Hendriks (Hollyoaks) and Judy Buxton (On The Up).

Buxton (On The Up).

This 60-year-old stage adaptation of the novel, made popular again by the star-studded BBC TV version, lets the audience look into the lives of the market town's residents, including a gaggle of gossiping ladies, but their domestic bliss is threatened by the spectre of financial ruin.

The Grand hosts Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, featuring Keith Jack in the coat of many colours, with matinee and evening performances today (Thurs-day), Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



Alicia Turrell and Hollyoaks' Jake Hendriks

RACHEL KAVANAUGH directs Lucy Caldand involving hundreds of local schoolchildren RACHEL KAVANAUGH directs Lucy Cald-well's Notes To Future Self, about the daughters of a 'New Age' globetrotter who return to Birm-ingham, at the Mac in Cannon Hill Park, Edg-baston, to March 12 before touring. SCIENCE Museum Live on Tour aims to per-suade youngsters that science is fun with explosive demonstrations on stage at Birming-ham's New Alexandra Theatre on Wednesday at 1.30 and 70m. It's on at Birmingham Town Hall at 11am on Sat-urday. West End star, successful recording artist and Radio 2 DJ Elaine Paige will be in concert at the city's Symphony Hall on Monday.

WOMEN'S theatre group Foursight from Wolverhampton have joined forces with a male theatre group from Portugal for the grotesque and poignant Pertencia, staged at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Tuesday and Wednesday.

THE ORCHESTRA of the Swan present hampton's Arena Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit and His Friends, a Wednesday. fancy dress treat with music and stories present the sented by children's TV favourite Lorna Laidlaw Arena on March 10. sent their revamp of Hamlet at the

FOR COMEDY head to Wolverhampton FOR COMEDY head to Wolverhampton, Richard Herring is in action on Saturday night at the Wulfrun Hall, Geordie comedienne Sarah Millican has sold out her Wulfrun show on Sunday and Shooting Stars' burger van philosopher Angelos Epithemiou will be at the same venue on Wednesday. Lenny Henry returns to the Black Country with his show looking back at his life via music, Cradle To Rave, at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Thurs-day, March 10.

Barbara Nice introduces the characters created by the Black Country's Fizzogg Theatre group

MUSICAL blockbuster The Sound of Music, with Verity Rushworth and Jason Donovan, ends its run at Stoke's Regent Theatre on Saturday. Then Shaun The Sheep stars in his own music and dance extravaganza Shaun's Big Show at the Regent from March 9 to 13.

day, March 10.

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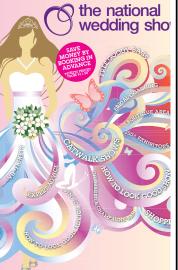


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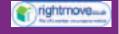
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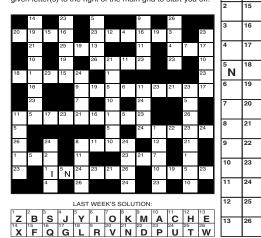
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- 7. Rare prints one orders for a more experienced associate (6.7)
- 8. Set smile neverending (8)
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- the melody (6) 12. An artist on a
- lathe? (6) 14. Nothing doing?
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- tin one (6) 18. Escaped from the
- scuffle despite being stunned (4) 20. Maybe our Tom is
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Quick Clues:

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- (13) 8. Glue (8) 9. Merit (4)
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- 1. Was against a new editress (8)

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- amusement (6)
- 3. Honest expres-sion of agreement (4)
- 4. It sounds highly
- unnatural (8)
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- the long run (6)
 6. Extremely light (4)
 11. Might it help you
 to sleep tight? (8)
- 13. He may have the will to settle things (8)
- 15. Certainly in action
- (6) 17. Unrefined and
- hearty perhaps (6) 19. For those not wishing to take flight (4)
- 21. New-made liquor (4)

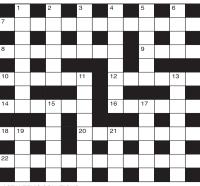
Down

- 1. Summarise (8) 2. Oration (6)
 - 3. Fairy (4) 4. Rite (8)

 - 4. Rite (8)
 5. Climb (6)
 6. Indigent (4)
 11. Inviolability (8)
 13. Magnetic (8)
 15. Reconnoitre (6)
 17. Take for granted

 - (6) **19.** Whirlpool (4)

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Door; 8 Enthusiasm; 9 Collapse; 10 Gift: 12
Dormer, 14 Spolis; 15 Adonis; 17 Settle: 18 lis; 19 Argument; 21
Wine-taster; 22 Echo. Down; 2 Out of order; 3 Real; 4 Stupor; 5 Rulers;
6 Ringbol; 7 Emit; 11 Full length; 13 Minister; 16 Sea-way; 17 Sights;
18 Iowa; 20 Mare. QUICK - Across: 1 Span; 8 Exasperate; 9 Sentinel;
10 Stay; 12 Stench; 14 Signa; 15 Kismet; 17 Regard; 18 Anon; 19 Entreatly; 21 Santa Claus; 22 Erne. Down; 2 Pedestrian; 3 Neat; 4 Launch
5 Spillis; 6 Pressing; 7 Rely; 11 Admiration; 13 Nominate; 16 Trench; 17
Ritual; 18 Also; 20 Else.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that	6	5		9	3			2	7
every column, every row and		3				4		5	
each of the 3x3 boxes contains			8	7			6		
all the digits from 1 to 9.	9	6				3			2
LAST WEEK'S			7		9		8		
SOLUTIONS >	8			4					
6 1 3 7 9 4 8 5 2 5 9 8 1 6 2 3 4 7 8 2 4 9 3 7 5 1 6	Г		2			9	7		5
7 3 5 2 1 6 4 8 9 1 6 9 5 4 8 7 2 3		4		3				8	
9 5 7 4 2 1 6 3 8 2 4 6 8 7 3 1 9 5 3 8 1 6 5 9 2 7 4	5					2		6	1

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three

the question mark? LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represente the question mark is E.

R A E

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HRONICLE MOTORING

The open-top car with fun factor



SMART is unveiling an unconventional open-air concept car at the Geneva Motor Show.

The Forspeed combines contemporary urban mobility with the fun factor typical of Smart. The two-seater has no roof or side windows and it features a low wind deflector instead of a windscreen in the style of a classic propeller

screen in the style of a classic properier aircraft.

The result is an incomparable fresh air driving experience. The responsive electric drive that has been further developed and features a boost function also guarantees

driving pleasure.

A look forward at the next generation is particularly exciting as the era of electric mobility has already started at Smart. Dr Annette Winkler, head of Smart says:

"The Smart Forspeed is a completely new take on how much fun it is to drive electric.

Smart is a pioneer in modern electric mobility. The second generation Fortwo Electric Drive has been available since the end of 2009 and is proving its suitability for everyday use in 18 countries including Germany, Italy, Spain, UK, France, Switzerland, the USA, Canada and further countries in Asia.

in Asia.

Due to the high demand production figures have been increased to 1,500 vehicles. Thanks to this experience Smart has collected extensive customer feedback that has been used for the development of the Forspeed's electric drive.

Cover

With its improved performance and charge management the concept vehicle offers a look at the performance potential of tuture generations of the electric Smart. The Forspeed accelerates from 0 to 37 mph in just 5.5 seconds and reaches a top speed of 75mph.

A 30 kW magneto-electric motor is

A 30 kW magneto-electric motor is installed at the rear of the concept, providing an immediate, powerful response from

console activates a boost function which provides an extra 5 kW of power for a short

time and is ideal for overtaking manoeuvres on urban highways, for example. The Forspeed is powered by a lithium-ion battery that is sufficient for 84 miles of

driving.

Quick charging from zero charge to 80 per cent takes just 45 minutes.

The whole interior can be protected against rain and sun when necessary with a tonneau cover

tonneau cover.

It is easy to stretch it over the interior and fasten it to the body with the straps.

It can be divided in the middle with the

help of a zip to free the driver's seat only, for

A downpour will not lead to any serious problems. Water drainage channels in the vehicle floor ensure that water is channelled

The seat surfaces also have water drainage channels and all interior equipment has a waterproof coating for fun behind the wheel regardless of the weather.

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CITROEN	DS3 1,6 THP DSPORT	RED	
CITROEN	C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI 90 MPV EXCLUSIVE	BLACK	3
CITROEN		GREY	
CITROEN	C5 SALOON 2.0 HDI 163 VTR+ NAV	WHITE	;
CITROEN		RED	
CITROEN	NEMO 1.4 HDI 70 LX VAN BERLINGO 1.6 HDI 75 LX VAN	WHITE	1 3
CITROEN	BERLINGO 1.6 HDI 75 LX VAN	BLACK	
CITROEN	DISPATCH HDI 90 PANEL VAN	SILVER	
CITROEN	RELAY HDI 120 35 HEAVY LWB PANEL VAN	WHITE	
CITROEN	C1 1.0 VTR 3DR	WHITE	1
CITROEN	C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI 90VTR+	BLACK	1 :
CITROEN	C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI 90VTR+	BLACK	1
CITROEN	C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI 90VTR+	BLACK	
HYUNDAI	HO 1.1 EDITION 5DR	BLUE	
HYUNDAI	H0 1.2 CLASSIC	SILVER	(
HYUNDAI	I10 1.2 CLASSIC	BLACK	
HYUNDAI	20 1.2 COMFORT 3DR	BLUE	1 3
HYUNDAI	20 1.2 EDITION 5DR	BLUE	1 2
HYUNDAI	20 1.4 CROI STYLE 6SP	BLACK	(
HYUNDAI	30 1.4 CLASSIC 5DR	SILVER	1
HYUNDAI	00 1.4 EDITION 5DR	SILVER	1
HYUNDAI	30 1.6 CRDI PREMIUM	BLUE	- 5
HYUNDAI	C1 1.0 VTR SDR C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI 90VTR+ C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI 90VTR+ C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI 90VTR+ H0 1.1 EDITION 5DR H0 1.2 CLASSIC H0 1.2 CLASSIC 20 1.2 COMFORT 3DR 20 1.2 EDITION 5DR 20 1.4 CRDI STYLE 6SP 30 1.4 CLASSIC 5DR 90 1.4 EDITION 5DR 90 1.6 CRDI PREMIUM 90 1.6 CRDI PREMIUM 90 1.6 CRDI PREMIUM	BLACK	
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2000, 69,000 miles, 12 months MoT, 7 seater, fet green, tow bar, A/C, CD/Radio, E/W,

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£1,700 ono. 07531 275079.

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low miles, MoT, FSH, 3dr, alloys black, excellent condition 23,650,07817 867963. VAUXHALL CORSA SXI 1.2 2002 silver, 58,000 miles, 11 month-MoT, 3 months tax, £2,000 ono 07956 141704 after 5pm.

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SSYS old male, St Mins, widower, laidback, old actical gent, literation togy reading, places of interest, seeks female. Tel No: 0205-436 8982 Son No: 358081 \$7

SHARON tall aim attractive, live alone with no fee, love romant/sia-ing and WILTH man for good times objected, maybe more. Any age. Tal No: good 436 6962 Soc No: 950159 3 M.A.E young arous 26, 5ft black hair, NS, non drinker, NS, likes most things, seeks femals, 91-32, stration and alim for monatios frams. Tal No: 0205 436 8562 Soa No: 381153 3

SSIAN single 4s4, likes pool, cirema, football, seeks female for fur, friendship, mayba more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Sox No: 909121

SENSITTV Etacilla, 50's mala, attiseres inverseme, sus main, som-lefe, likos art, tossel, gym, seeks slim, somsetive, N/S female to-enjoy meaningful relationship. Tel Not. 0905 438 8582 Slow Not. 317487

CK kind of a guy 50%, looks and acyled younger, good standard of bring, like to share with alim, attractive, N/S Amale. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Sox No: 384834

gay'friends seeking

MALE 34, attractive, St. (nins, blue eyes, Nord hair, seeks alim male for fun relationalis. Any area, cantravel. Tel No: 0205 438 6562 Soa No: 311302 \$7

MARK 42, seeks gry (8-35 for fin, maybe more. Tel No: 0205 436 6562 Sou No: 3612-7 💆

CAN male, 55, seeks similar gay male, 18-90 for Medidatin, maybe more, Tel Noy 0205-436 6562 Soci No: 355301 🗿

adult confocts

DETROPT OF FOREIGN AND COMME

PETITE 4ark haire4 la4₀, 43, aize 10, ae4ka ostaiderate, NS male, 25-91 for Am. Tel No: 0205 436 6562 Soa No: 333651 wamen seeking men

Ledies Text of Chet Text in now and chat to local people. Send : LONBLY bloods widow with no CHAT207 To: 65125

CHAT207 To: es125 (14.0% below) LADY Wis, seeks gent of similar age for friendship, days out and holdays. Ordky ares. Tel No: 0005 439 6592 Son No: 991043

SEAJTY 39 looking for much other white male for very special elasticiship. Looks unimporcent, Single fort welcome, ACA Tel No: 0905 436 6562 30x No: 390325 3

MMDV 98, size (0, lodding for relationship with open-minded man. Steps unimportant Tel No: 0905 498 6562 Sox No: 360317 3

DESSIE 38, fit size 12, 99LTM intelligent man for fun relationship. with no 64s. Any age. Tel No: 0205 439 6562 Son No: 360327 3

SUSSLY female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes out-doors, cinems, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soot mare, 474-971. Tall No: 0905 436 6562 Sox No: 357919

CAROL 43 Iowa arimala, foreign oscial, CSCM, rary easy to plasse, losting for sensione man for toods front-sing by any aparatria. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Son No: sensor III. 300329 🖁

ATTRACTIVERN's larly looking for a good man. Looking, swisia and sensitive can you put the aping back in my seep? ACA. Tal No: 0905 498 6562 Box No: 353269 3

seeks older male for cosy mights in, ACA Tel No: 0005 439 6560 Son No: 357143 3

FED up with lonely nighted Blonds blue eyed, no children blue. WL Tid someone for cosy nights in and TLC. Any speaked server. Tel No: 0205 436 8562 Box No: 350165 3 at: http://dating.expres

CALLCHARGES* 98% odbroacht 38 jannár 98192/995 odbroacht 1702 jannár 97% Sig Phoneback addoc kitályzvál ha ostolnodíty írjál a 1707 si Sig Phoneback addoc kitályzvál ha ostolnodíty írjál a 1707 si Sig Phoneback addoc kitályzvál ha ostolnodíty írjál a 1707 si Sig Phoneback addoc kitályzvál ha ostolnodíty írjál a 1707 si Sig Phoneback addoc kitályzvál si velet ned podreback ned kitályzvál si velet ned podreback addoc kitályzvál si velet ned kitályzvál si velet





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One old, one new to complete the Heathens

DUDLEY Heathens have completed their 2011 speedway line-up with one old face and one new one. Richard Franklin returns from last season's side and is joined by 21-year-old Luke Chessell, who will track at reserve with Darry! Ritchard serve weith or with the condition of the con

GLASSBOYS DIG DEEP FOR A WIN

INJURY-HIT Stourbridge picked up their fifth away league victory of the season as they took maximum points at St George's Lane thanks to a polished firsthalf showing before they dug deep after the interval as the Robins fought back hard.

The Glassboys began well on Tuesday night with Aaron Drake squandering an early opportunity before Linden Dovey turned and cracked a 25-yard low drive wide in the ninth minute. Three minutes later Gary Hackett's men opened the scoring when Ryan Rowe exchanged passes with Linden Dovey before being tripped

Three minutes later Gary Hackett's men opened the scoring when Ryan Rowe exchanged passes with Linden Dovey before being tripped inside the penalty area and Dovey stepped forward to send Nathan Vaughan the wrong way with his spot-kick. Rowe finds the net – but it's all amistake Stourbridge 2 Turo 2 THE Glassboys fought back from two goals down to pick up a hardearned point against the Zamaretto Premier leaders. But the talking point on Saturday came with 10 minutes to go when a Stourbridge goal was chalked off. A clash of heads led to an uncontested drop ball for Ryan Rowe to punt downfield and return possession to the visitors. Unfortunately a combination of Rowe's beef and a strong following wind saw the ball sail over Trurekeper Martin Rice and into the net. Following a long pause the referee took the forp ball again although! On the stroke of half-time Jamie Vaughan the very ball again although! On the stroke of half-time Jamie Linden Dovey before being tripped to send Nathan Dovey being typed for ward to send Nathan Dovey being typed for sale levelled five minutes later as Leo Brown swept the ball wide to James Blake on the right and his cross bounced through to James Blake on the right and his ross bounced through to James Blake on the right and his ross bounced through to James Blake on the right and his ross bounced through to James Blake on the right and his ross bounced through to James Blake on the right and his possible with sale of the ball wide to James Blake on the right and his ross bounced through to James Blake on the right and his pross bounced through to James Hyde who skied his shot over the ball wide to James Blake on the right and his ross bounced through to James Hyde who skied his shot over the ball wide to James Blake on the right and his prove shold with the ball wild to James Blake on the right and his cross bounced through to James Hyde who skied his shot over the ball wild to James Blake on the right and his eros bounced through to send whether the ball wild to James Bla

visitors.

Unfortunately a combination of Rowe's beef and a strong following wind saw the ball sail over Truro keeper Martin Rice and into the net. Following a long pause the refere took the drop ball again although Stourbridge assistant boss Jon Ford confirmed afterwards that, had the goal been given, Truro would have been allowed to walk in an equaliser.

Skidded

Skidded

Skidded

Stourbridge had fallen behind on 18 minutes from a breakaway goal. A Glassboys free-kick was cleared by Joe Broad up to halfway where Barry Hayles' delightful pass released Andy Taylor to advance on goal and lash a superb right-foot shot past Lewis Solly and into the top corner.

With 27 minutes gone the Cornish side doubled their advantage with another clinical finish. Josh Craddock was dispossessed and Jake Ash hit a curling shot into the top corner.

The Glassboys got back into the game and struck six minutes before the interval when a corner by Dyson dropped invitingly for Leon Broadhurst at the far post to fire home.

And they levelled after 65 minutes when Paul Lloyd delivered a cross from the right and Dovey headed the ball down and across for Rowe to bundle home. That was to be the last goal!

Safely

Heavy going for Saxons



Stourbridge edged out by their Midlands neighbours

CINDERFORD took the points back to the Forest of Dean after edging out their neighbours at muddy Stourton Park.

Atry and a penalty midway through the second half, when the home side were down to 14 men, proved the turning point writes David Lawrence.

Safely

On the stroke of half-time Jamie Oliver produced a strong run towards the Evesham box and he fired in a low drive that Vaughan held safely.

Two minutes into the second period it was game on as the home side reduced the arrears with Shaze fastening onto through ball down the middle from the Sird minute a long free-kick from Vaughan was headed back towards the goal by Andy Jones and Wilding put his header wide at the near post and soon afterwards Shaze had a low shot saved by Solly by his near post.

Stourbridge restored their two-goal cushion in the 62nd minute with Drask sending in a corner from the right and Nathan Bennett stooped low to guide a mistake by sub James Cooper in dealing with a long diagonal ball let in Blake who shot into the side netting.

David Accam did pull a goal back in the 86th minute when he shot home past Solly from the left-hand side of the area and in a nervous finish, Hyde flashed a shot wide.



Successful night for **swimmers**

STOURBRIDGE Swimming Club enjoyed a

STOURBRIDGE Swimming Club enjoyed a prolific evening in the second round of the Worcester Winter League.

Three swimmers – Tom McCallum, Adam Horton and Becki Cole – won two events each while eight other Stourbridge members from the 25-strong team enjoyed individual race victories.

They were Alex Westwood, Bethan Walters, Ellie Lord, Emily Bennett, Madison Brookes, Nat Dingley, Rich Spoor and Sam Tromans.

Other winners on the night included the unbeaten under-13s relay teams of Aimes Sanders, Emily Bennett, Adam Horton, Emma Pay, Tom McCallum, Madison Brookes and Myles Pountain.

Tom McCallum gave arguably the performance of the event when hew on the 100 metre breaststroke by 10 seconds, nearly a lepth clear of the field.

Team manager Jason Thom praised his achievement. To put this amount of water between you and your nearest rival over just four lengths is absolutely unbelievable, "he said.

Slender

Slender

Halas Hawks 3 Gornal 2
The under-13s went
two goals down to Gornal
but showed character to
level by half-time with
goals from Amy Blake
more and Sophie Blount.
The second half saw
Halas squander several
chances before Sophie
Pritchard put away a
Blakemore corner.
Boys League
Warstones 3 "Tom is one of our many up and coming

many up and coming young swimmers who will hopefully follow in the footsteps of other Stourbridge Swimming Club members and go on to represent Great Britain.

Stourbridge had a slender four-point lead over Worcester A at halfway but fell just short in the closing races despite a win in the final relay of the night from Hannah Williams, Rich Spoor, Ellie Lord, Joe Horne, Becki Cole and Nick Cruchley.

Anyone interested in joining the club, who must be six or over, should call head coach Stew Nicklin on 07834 689178.

Bustleholme in good form

Bustleholme 3 Shawbury 0 BUSTLEHOLME continued their good run of form to stay third in the West Midlands Premier. On the hour Ryan Trumpeter who fed Adam

Halas Hawks East 1
The under-nines East
travelled with the bare
seven players and fell
two goals behind in the
first half. A long-range
solo goal from Loui
Jones got them back in
the hunt but Warstones'
third goal left them with
too much to do.
Old Wulfrunians 6
Halas Hawks West 0 Old Wulfrunians 6
Halas Hawks West 0
The under-12s West
lost 6-0 to a very good Old
Wulfrunians side after
going one down in the
first minute and conceding another three before
half-time. They were
better in the second half
but Wulfs got two more.

Parton, luniors 0. Halas

second-half winner.

Halas Hawks 3 Gornal 2

Warstones 3 Halas Hawks East

Perton Juniors 0 Halas Hawks Dynamos 6 The under-12

under-12 Unumpeter who fed Adam Wattley for a smart finish. Bustleholme got their second through from Chris Priest (2), Matty Jukes and Jamie Clews scored a late goal.

Star Stewart makes British judo squad

A HALESOWEN judo star has won a place on the under-20 British judo squad.

Max Stewart's reward came after a gold medal performance in the 2011 British trials at the English Institute of Sport Sheffield. Stewart, from Halesowen Judo Club, won his under-73kilo category.

He is a Walsall College student, taking the advanced apprenticeship in sporting excellence course.

This is designed for talented judo players aged 16-19 and allows them to develop potential through enhanced training while continuing their education.

The Halesowen Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Wolverhampton on Thursday, March 3, 2011.

Fifteen tries as DK rewrite club record books

RECORD-BREAKING Dudley Kingswinford amassed 15 tries as they slaughtered Old Laurentians

Kingswinford amassed 10 trees as they slaughtered Old Laurentians at Heathbrook.

Their total of 91 points was a record league score for DK, who also made it 20 victories on the trot in Midlands One West and returned to top form after the previous week's last-gasp win over Whitchurch.

Despite all this, DK actually had to come from behind to win after Warwickshire-based Old Lauren-

debut after signing from Bournville, stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and passed to Stefan Thop who drove over the line stole the ball and ball Slick inter-basing between Matt Farrington and Shillingford saw the latter and Shillingford saw the latter

HALESOWEN

Inspirational living at affordable prices COUSINS' PHENOMENAL

MULTI MILLION POUND STOCK CLEARANCE

Cousins have been closed -

- But they reopen this Friday at 10am in time for their multi million pound clearance event. New departments opening within the store mean you can save up to 70% on a massive range of furniture, carpets, beds and homewares.

For 3 Days, this Friday Saturday & Sunday

Cousins have been closed all week, because staff have been working around the clock handling vast amounts of surplus and incoming stock from suppliers, which is arriving daily to the stores - all price tickets have been reduced to a fraction of the normal price for this one off clearance event.

EXTENSIVE REFURBISHMENT

Cousins will be undergoing extensive refurbishments in order to accommodate new lifestyle departments, brand new Stressless galleries, extensions to their homeware departments and also many new furniture collections.

To make room for these exciting ranges of accessories and furniture, they must clear existing stock immediately. As a result of this, you can take advantage of huge savings and massive reductions on furniture, carpets, beds and

will give added inspiration by showcasing the latest in "retro chic" and "vintage revival."

Managing Director Robert Shotton is keen to clear the existing stock to allow the new departments to flourish." From big brand name sofas to home accessories, they are all on the clearance list as Cousins must empty their warehouses to complete the refurbishment

ALL ITEMS MUST GO

"We need to clear this stock as soon as possible and it really is a case of everything must go," said Robert. "We have recognised that people come

to Cousins for the full shopping experience, which includes being able to purchase cushions and accessories to compliment their new sofa or dining table.

The extensions to our homewares department incorporate exciting new products such as beanbags, electrical and flora.

However, the only way to make room for these new additions to the Cousins range is to clear the existing stock we have."

UNBEATABLE PRICES

Following successful buying trips to Cologne, Paris, Milan, Singapore and Shanghai, Cousins are introducing many new furniture collections to their already extensive stock. To accommodate the new season ranges, they have massively reduced the prices of the existing stock, some by up to 70% for a limited time only.

MASSIVE REDUCTIONS

Some of the massive reductions available include a saving of more than £1650 on a Derwent suite plus a leather bedstead for £149. With lamps, pictures, rugs, carpets and their complete range of accessories discounted

to a fraction

of their normal price, there's a look and a discount available for

IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

There's new stock arriving throughout the three days, with many one off bargains that won't be repeated as well as leading brand name items, for immediate

"We are delighted to be able to offer our customers even more choice than ever before" said Robert. "These are some of the biggest savings we have ever offered and I am sure that people will be flocking in to snap up a bargain."

MADE TO ORDER

"We've even reduced all made to order items, so you can choose exactly what suits your home, whether it's a beautiful new marble dining table or a new bed.

Our expert team of sales people will be on hand to make sure you get the best furniture at the right price for your home.

We are expecting this to be one of the busiest times of the year from the minute that our doors open, but with fresh stock arriving throughout the weekend, including some amazing reductions, every customer can go home with a fantastic bargain."



FAMOUS BRAND NAMES

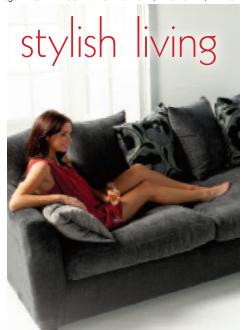
So if you are looking for some of the biggest discounts we've ever offered, on the leading brands in furniture, from G-Plan to Vi-Spring to Parker Knoll plus many more, visit your local Cousins store.

These offers are only available in store, not through Cousins website. Remember this is a one off event and these are genuine deals which won't be repeated so if you are looking for a bargain, now is









...and massive choice at the Cousins'

MULTI MILLION PC

THIS FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDA

DOORS OPEN 10AM FRIDAY, be early for the best buys, there are many never to be repeated ONE OFF bargains. If you are seriously thinking of buying any item of furniture, carpets, beds or home accessories at the lowest possible prices then you must VISIT COUSINS THIS FRIDAY, SATURDAY OR SUNDAY.







Leather & fabric Degas pillow-back large sofa and small sofa	£1599	£494
Derwent Camille Grand sofa and snuggler	01202	£007

Columbine high back 3 seater suite

sofa

in chenille fabric

£2649 £9	97
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£1409	£516	
LITUU	AU I U	

Parker Knoll Gatsby high back 3 seater sofa and chair	06012	£97
sofa and chair	エノジンジ	7011

Pocket sprung high back Brandon chairs in easycare fabric	£94
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Tetrad Leather & fabric corner group with complimentary accent cushions	01010	6722
complimentary accent cushions	11043	7100

Wade Corina pillow-back Grand sofa and armchair	00000	C		A	
armchair	LOUJJ	L	IJ	7	J

Bonded leather high back swivel chair and footstool	£399	£184
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/ictoria Double Metal Bedstead	£399	£99

Tempur King Size Mattress	£1949	£899
	LIUTU	7033

King Size Leather Canterbury Headboard	£129	£45
	~·-	~

Single White Label Mattress	£229	£40
	LLLJ	74A

King Size Pocketsprung Saturn Drawer	£799	£249
Divan set	LIJJ	7712

Leather Saville Double bedstead	£699	£149

Virginia King Size Metal Bedstead 1599	£14	19
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ARE ALSO MASSIVE DISCOUN























, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 2008 Page



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www.cousinsfurniture.co.uk